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## MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARCH LECTURE SERIES

Stories of the good and the bad Montana women in history will be told during the month-long Friends of the Montana Historical Society March Lecture Series.

Sisters of Charity, sisters of a different occupation, Glacier Park ranger wives, those who waited for the miners that never came home are among the programs offered at the brown-bag lectures each Wednesday at noon during March.

Tickets are \$20 for all five events purchased in advance, or \$5 at the door. You can send checks to Friends of the Montana Historical Society, Attn. Katie White, PO Box 201201, Helena MT 59620-1201, or contact White at 406-444-9553 or email [kwhite@mt.gov](mailto:kwhite@mt.gov).

The Friends of the Society has well over 200 members and provides nearly the equivalent of three full time employees in volunteer work each year.

Here are the dates and topics of the programs:

**March 3rd-*Goodbye Wives and Daughters, Susan Kushner Resnick***

One morning in 1943, close to eighty men descended into the Smith coal mine in Bearcreek, Montana. Only three came out alive. "Goodbye wives and daughters . . ." wrote two of the miners as they died. The story of that tragic day and its aftermath unfolds in this book through the eyes of those wives and daughters—women who lost their husbands, fathers, and sons, livelihoods, neighbors, and homes, yet managed to fight back and persevere. Susan Kushner Resnick has uncovered the story behind all those losses.

**March 10<sup>th</sup>-*Rangers' Wives and Stories of Amazing Women in Glacier National Park***

Society Curator Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney will share stories of women associated with Glacier National Park - from tenacious early backcountry rangers' wives, early settlers, Native women, and more – how these interesting women have helped form Glacier National Park.

**March 17<sup>th</sup>-*Montana and the Hidden Landscape of Prostitution***

Prostitution was a lucrative business whose architectural footprints survive in many communities. From mining camps to railroad towns and places in between, red light remnants often hide in plain sight. Society Historian Ellen Baumler sorts fact from fiction in this fascinating survey of surviving examples of red light real estate from across Montana.

**March 24<sup>th</sup>-*Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth – 140 years Dedicated Service in Montana, Sister Dolores Brinkel***

Who were these women in black who came to Montana in 1869, built hospitals, schools and a children's home in an era when women worked only in the home? Today, the seeds of caring for others planted in the 19th century continue to grow, even though in different forms and places.

**March 31<sup>st</sup>-*Unique & Handsome: Cass Gilbert's Designs for the Montana Club***

On a snowy April evening in 1903, the 12 year old Montana Club, the “most magnificent club building this side of Chicago” burned to the ground. Using historic architectural drawings & photographs—some never seen before—Society Curator of History Patty Dean traces famed St. Paul/New York City architect Cass Gilbert's design, decoration & furnishing of the new club building & its surprising links to 18<sup>th</sup> century gentlemen's clubs in London & the Minnesota State Capitol.